



Ballistic Missile Defense System Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

The MDA prepared a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate the impacts to the environment of the development, testing, deployment, and planning for decommissioning activities for an integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS). The BMDS PEIS evaluates the current technology, components, assets, and programs that make up the proposed BMDS as well as the development and application of new technologies, and considers cumulative impacts of implementing the BMDS. The BMDS would use existing infrastructure and capabilities, when feasible, as well as emerging and new technologies, to meet current and evolving ballistic missile threats.

Ballistic Missile Defense System

The MDA is developing and testing elements, components, and programs comprising a BMDS capable of defending the U.S. homeland, deployed forces, friends, and allies against all classes and ranges of threat ballistic missiles. The BMDS will provide a layered defense capable of engaging threat missiles in the boost, midcourse, and terminal flight phases. The BMDS will integrate sensors, Command and Control, Battle Management and Communications (C2BMC), and interceptors to detect, track and engage (or intercept) missiles. Interceptors use “hit-to-kill” concepts to intercept incoming missiles in a high-speed collision. Hit-to-kill does not use explosives or nuclear materials. BMDS testing also includes consideration of targets and countermeasures and advanced concepts development such as directed energy technology.

Proposed Action

The MDA proposes to develop, test, deploy, and to plan for related decommissioning activities for an integrated BMDS using existing infrastructure and capabilities, when feasible, as well as emerging and new technologies to meet current and evolving threats from ballistic missiles. The Secretary of Defense assigned the MDA the mission to develop and field an integrated BMDS capable of providing a layered defense for the homeland, deployed forces, friends, and allies against ballistic missiles of all ranges in all phases of flight.

Implementation Alternatives for the Proposed Action

In the BMDS PEIS, the MDA considers two alternative approaches to implementing an integrated BMDS that address the use of weapons components from land-, sea-, air-, and space-based platforms in addition to the No Action Alternative as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Alternative 1 – Under Alternative 1, the MDA would develop, test, deploy, and plan to decommission land-, sea-, and air-based platforms for BMDS weapons components and related architecture and assets. The BMDS envisioned in Alternative 1 would include space-based sensors, but would not include space-based weapons.

Alternative 2 – Under Alternative 2, the MDA would develop, test, deploy, and plan to decommission land-, sea-, air-, and space-based platforms for weapons and related architecture and assets. Alternative 2 would be identical to Alternative 1, with the addition of space-based defensive weapons.

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, the MDA would not test, develop, deploy or plan for decommissioning activities for an integrated BMDS. Instead, the MDA would continue existing test and development of discrete missile defense systems as stand-alone defensive capabilities. Individual systems would continue to be tested but would not be subjected to system integration testing.

To Provide Comments on the Draft BMDS PEIS

Comments on the Draft PEIS may be submitted to the MDA through one of the addresses below. Comments received at the public hearings and throughout the public comment period will be addressed in the Final BMDS PEIS. To ensure comments are adequately addressed in the Final PEIS, comments must be received no later than November 17, 2004.

- By mail: MDA BMDS PEIS
c/o ICF Consulting
9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031
- By phone (toll-free): 1-877-MDA-PEIS (1-877-632-7347)
- By fax (toll-free): 1-877-851-5451
- By e-mail: mda.bmds.peis@icfconsulting.com
- By web site: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/mda/peis/html/home.html>
- At public hearings
Arlington, VA – October 14, 2004
Sacramento, CA – October 19, 2004
Anchorage, AK – October 21, 2004
Honolulu, HI – October 26, 2004

To Obtain Additional Information on the BMDS PEIS

We encourage you to visit the MDA's web site at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/mda/peis/html/home.html> for more information on the BMDS PEIS. Public involvement materials for the BMDS PEIS are available on the web site, including fact sheets, briefings, contact information, and comment submittal information.

To Obtain a Copy of the Final BMDS PEIS

Paper copies of the Executive Summary of the Final PEIS or a CD-ROM containing the entire document may be requested through the PEIS web site or at the registration table tonight. A pdf version of the two volume Final PEIS will be available for download through the web site and paper copies will be available at various libraries identified on the web site.

BMDS PEIS Milestones and Schedule

The milestones and schedule for the BMDS PEIS are outlined below. All comments received during the public comment period will be addressed in the Final PEIS. Publication of a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register will announce the public release of the Final PEIS. A minimum of 30 days after publication of the Final PEIS, the MDA will make a decision regarding the proposed action. This decision will be announced in the form of a Record of Decision, or ROD. The publication of the ROD concludes the NEPA process, notifies the public of the agency's decision, and provides the reasons for the decision.

Notice of Intent	April 2003
Scoping	April 2003 – September 2004
Release Draft PEIS	September 2004
Public Comment Period	September – November 2004
Release Final PEIS	December 2004/January 2005
Record of Decision	January/February 2005

Please visit the MDA's web site for additional information on the BMDS PEIS
<http://www.acq.osd.mil/mda/peis/html/home.html>